



Commerce
Subcabinet
Guidance Collaboration Action

October 19, 2020
Via Google Meet
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)
Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Department of Labor
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE)
Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis, Jr. for Greg Slater, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP)
Jim Fielder, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)
Bunky Luffman, Special Advisor, for Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary, Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth

Guests:

Meredith Wimbrow, Office of the Governor
Gretchen Hardman, Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affair (GOIA)
Deputy Secretary Horacio Tablada, MDE
Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis MDOT
Allison Cordell, Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI)
Kendrick Gordon, Governor's Office of Rural Broadband
Sue Battle-McDonald, MDE
Kory Boone, SDAT
Mike Pantelides, Labor
Ann Gunning, Labor
Victor Clark, Labor
Janice Walker-Emeogo, Labor
Joe Griffiths, MDP
Roger Campos, DHCD

Commerce Staff:

Julie Woepke
Kyle McColgan
Jayson Knott
Sarah Sheppard
Brigitte Peters
Andrew Sargent
Wade Hearle
Rhonda Ray
Tom Riford
Mike Siers
Rhonda Ray
Signe Pringle

I. Call to Order

Secretary Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:0pm.

I. Review and approval of August 4, 2020 Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the August 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

II. Chair Update

Secretary Schulz provided an update on the status of the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loans and Grants distributed by the Department. She then introduced Economist Mike Siers to review the latest economic recovery indicators of the State's economy. He highlighted the Gross National Product (GDP), consumer spending, unemployment rate, impacts by industry sector, and consumer behavior. He concluded by providing recommendations to encourage recovery including 1) continue to fight the virus, 2) support businesses who face increased costs, 3) support workforce training, 4) support small businesses as they expand their digital footprint, and 5) support entrepreneurship. Secretary Schulz then reported on the Maryland Future 20 program, which highlights entrepreneurship and innovation with the announcement of the winners scheduled for November. She continued her presentation by introducing Assistant Secretary Tom Riford who presented an update on the tourism marketing campaign.

Secretary Schulz introduced Jayson Knott, Senior Director, to provide an update on major activity representing at least 25 new jobs. All presentations on file.

III. Department of Labor Update

Secretary Tiffany Robinson provided an update on unemployment benefits and the launching of the modernized BEACON 2.0 to provide fast and accurate information to claimants. She describe measures and programs implemented to assist employers with workforce needs. She described a number of new grants that the Department sought and awarded to support the State's public workforce system. Secretary Robinson concluded by providing a list of additional unemployment insurance resources. Presentation on file.

IV. Subcabinet Workgroups

The Leaders of the five (5) Workgroups gave presentations: Customer Service, Job Creators, Workforce Development, Small Business, Regional Resources and SM3. The Regional Resources Region Leaders provided Updates and Opportunities Reports, Action Plans and Narratives as applicable. Joe Griffiths of MDP presented on behalf of Ryan Snow, GOIA and Todd Scott, DHCD who were unable to attend. Presentations and reports are on file.

V. Good of the Order

Secretary Schulz opened the meeting to the Subcabinet for updates by first acknowledging Economic Development Week and expressed interest in inviting Bill Doyle, the new Executive Director of the Port of Baltimore to the next meeting. Special Advisor Bunky Luffman of DNR reported the announcement of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding available to the Maryland fishing industry announced today. Secretary Grumbles expressed his appreciation on the progress of the SM3 Workgroup. Secretary Holt expressed concern regarding the condition of Travel/Welcome Centers and the impression they make to travelers and visitors. Secretary McCord thanked all who assisted in completing the U.S. Census forms. The State ranked #9 in self-reporting with Carroll, Howard, Harford

and Frederick Counties ranking in the top 100 of 3,200 counties nation-wide. Special Secretary Rhee reminded the Subcabinet of the importance of the Maryland Charity Campaign.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.